

## Decision Paper

**Richard Ortiz**

### Request for Extension of LOD Leave

#### Issue

Richard Ortiz, Fire Engineer, assigned to Engine 5 A, seeks an extension of Line of Duty leave from May 30, 2014 to October 22, 2014 for an injury suffered while on duty on May 29, 2013. This extension will restore 1152 hours, or 48 shifts of accrued leave. In accordance with Texas Local Government Code Chapter 143.073, this extension requires an approval by City Council. The department needs to submit a request for ordinance that will include the Fire Chief's recommendation.

#### Facts

- Date of injury – May 29, 2013.
- Fire Engineer Ortiz injured his lower back while he was assisting in the rescue of a patient from a structure fire.
- He was initially diagnosed with a lumbar sprain/strain and lumbar disc displacement at L3-4 and L5-S1.
- Fire Engineer Ortiz had conservative medical treatment which included physical therapy, epidural steroid injections and diagnostic tests prior to a L5-S1 laminectomy and decompression that was performed on April 10, 2014.
- He continued physical therapy post surgery and participated in a work conditioning program before returning to work full-duty.
- On Line of Duty leave from May 30, 2013 until May 29, 2014. He began using his own leave on May 30, 2014 to October 22, 2014.
- Fire Engineer Richard Ortiz returned to duty on October 23, 2014.

#### Considerations

#### Recommendation

Fire Department staff recommends approval.

Approved       Disapproved

  
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Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief

10/1/15  
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Date